

Serial No. 10/553,132

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Art Unit 2872

Response to Office Action of January 18th, 2008

Amendments to Claims:

13. (Currently Amended) An optical device comprising a first combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms with parallel optic axes for dividing an optical input beam into polarized beams, a second combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms with parallel optic axes for combining polarized beams into an output beam, and a polarization changer disposed between said first combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms and said second combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms, wherein each birefringent prism of each said combination of birefringent prisms has oblique input and output faces.

14. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 13, further comprising a third combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms with parallel optic axes disposed between said polarization changer and said second combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms, wherein each birefringent prism of said third combination of birefringent prisms has oblique input and output faces.

15. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 13, wherein ~~wedges~~ prisms of at least one combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms are arranged about at least one reflector or refractor.

16. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 13, wherein ~~wedges~~ prisms of at least one combination of birefringent ~~wedges~~ prisms are arranged about a polarization changer.

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17. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical isolator ~~and~~, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device, wherein light entering said second port does not exit through said first port, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

18. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical attenuator ~~and~~, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device with an intensity as determined by an intensity varying means, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a reciprocal polarization changer.

19. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical circulator ~~and~~, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device, wherein light entering said second port exits through a third port of said device, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

20. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical switch, wherein light entering a first port of said device exits through a second port of said device or through a third port of said device as determined by a switching means, wherein at least one polarization changer of said device is a reciprocal polarization changer.